



# **U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary**

## **F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman**

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### **News Advisory**

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## **Sensenbrenner Introduces Bipartisan, Comprehensive Legislation to Protect Kids from Sex Offenders**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today introduced bipartisan, comprehensive legislation, H.R. 3132, the “Children’s Safety Act of 2005,” aimed at protecting children from sex offenders.

Chairman Sensenbrenner said today at a press conference introducing this legislation, “Unfortunately, we’re all too familiar with the need for this legislation. We’ve learned through painful experience that our current child protection efforts aren’t sufficient and that more must be done. This bipartisan legislation addresses a number of child crime issues, including registration of sex offenders, violent crimes against children, sexual crimes against children, sexual exploitation of children, and protection of foster and adopted children. The Children’s Safety Act was drafted in response to the recent horrific attacks and murders of Jessica Lunsford, Sarah Lunde, Jetseta Gage, and others who have recently been killed by sex offenders.”

“The House Judiciary Committee has held 3 hearings on this subject this month and evaluated the legislative proposals. I have tried to take the most effective provisions, refine them if necessary, and package them into the legislation that we’re introducing today,” added Chairman Sensenbrenner.

“We have worked with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, John Walsh, host of *America’s Most Wanted*, and others in drafting this legislation. I expect the Judiciary Committee to markup this legislation in July once we finish House consideration of the PATRIOT Act,” commented Chairman Sensenbrenner. “I’m confident of overwhelming bipartisan House passage and optimistic of its Senate prospects. I believe we’ll be able to work together on a bipartisan basis with our Senate colleagues like we did 2 years ago on the PROTECT Act, which supporters like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children describe as the most important child protection legislation in the last 20 years.”

## **PROTECTING OUR NATION'S CHILDREN**

### ***The Children's Safety Act of 2005***

- Improves Sex Offender Registration and Notification Program to ensure that sex offenders register, and keep current, where they reside, work and attend school (H.R. 2423 – Rep. Foley)
- Improves verification systems for sex offender information by requiring monthly verification, sex offender in-person verification every six months, and regular notarized verification mailings (H.R.1505 – Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite)
- Requires States to have a uniform, public access sex offender registration website (H.R. 2423 – Rep. Foley)
- Creates Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website to search for sex offender information in each community (H.R. 95 – Reps. Gillmor and Pomeroy)
- Expands sex offenders to include juvenile sex offenders (H.R. 2797 - Rep. Green)
- Requires States to notify each other when sex offender moves from one State to another (H.R. 2423 – Rep. Foley)
- Expands sex offenses covered by registration and notification requirements to include military, tribal, foreign, sex crimes, and increases duration of registration requirements to protect the public (H.R. 1355 – Rep. Poe)
- Expands community notification requirements to include active efforts to inform law enforcement agencies, schools, public housing, social service agencies and volunteer organizations in area where sex offender resides, works or attends school (H.R. 2423- Rep. Foley, and H.R. 1355 – Rep. Poe)
- Creates new criminal penalty of mandatory minimum of 5 years to maximum of 20 years for sex offender who fails to comply with registration requirements
- Expands law enforcement use of DNA to solve sex crimes (H.R. 2796 –Rep. Green)
- Prevents and deters violent crimes against children and sexual exploitation of children (H.R. 2318 and H.R. 2388 – Rep. Green)
- Protects foster children from sexual abuse and exploitation ( H.R. \_\_\_\_ - Rep. Delay)
- Increases criminal penalties against child sexual predators (H.R. \_\_\_\_ - Rep. DeLay, and H.R. 2942, Rep. Graves)